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UNCLAS KUWAIT 004989

SIPDIS

State for IIP/G/IR-BConaty; NEA/PPD-JDAVIES; NEA/EX; NEA/ARP

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KIRC](#) [KMPI](#) [OIIP](#) [SCUL](#) [KPAO](#) [KU](#)

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AMERICAN CORNERS FUNDING

¶11. FUNDING REQUEST: PAS Kuwait requests \$52,376.52 to fund an American Corner at the main library of Kuwait University. We have agreed with the Dean of Arts and Sciences that this resource, if approved, will serve as the basis for an American Studies program in the College of Social Sciences.

¶12. IMPACT: With approximately 16,000 full-time students, Kuwait University is the largest public university in Kuwait, and remains the top choice for students who do not choose to study abroad. Despite its size, up-to-date materials and information about the US are in short supply at the university library, and past efforts to establish an American studies center/curriculum have thus far met with little success. Additionally, student activities tend to be dominated by the Islamist student union, some of whose members (though by no means all) serve up the occasional anti-US diatribe in campus publications and speaking programs. During a lecture by a US speaker to the university last November, for example, PAS staff was struck at the very harsh criticism leveled against the US by Islamist and liberal students alike. While we attributed much of this to frustration over the Palestinian issue and angst during the period leading up to confrontation with Iraq, some of what we heard reflected an abysmal understanding of American life and institutions, an impression underscored during other interactions we have had with students there. Providing an American Corner at the university library would, we believe, provide a much-needed source of information about the US for Kuwaiti students, and would constitute a vital first step in the establishment of an American studies center and curriculum at the university.

¶13. Following is a list of materials requested for the American Corner at Kuwait University. Please note that we have added five percent to the costs of the American Studies modules in order to accommodate any rise in costs:

KUWAIT UNIVERSITY AMERICAN STUDIES CORNER:

English Language Training Module:	\$6,208.46
Core Reference Collection:	\$7,247.97
Educational Information Module:	\$2,305.22
Advising Reference Module:	\$2,738.23
Business Information Module:	\$2,083.67
CD-ROM Module:	\$5,679.25
Reference- Non-Serial:	\$50.00
IRO Presentation Module:	\$415.94
Videocassettes Module:	\$4,047.78

Library/Multi-media resources:

Additional 250 Volumes	\$7,500.00
150 educational/cultural films	\$4000.00
Sub-total:	\$42,276.52

Computer/multimedia equipment:

4 Desktop Pentium Computers:	\$8,000.00
1 Laser Printer:	\$1,000.00
1 Scanner:	\$ 200.00
34-Inch Multi-system TV Monitor:	\$ 900.00
Sub-total:	\$10,100.00

TOTAL: \$52,376.52

¶14. Post commends IIP for this important initiative.

JONES